
THE ACTS CHURCH 2:42
"EXPERIENCE REAL CHURCH"

April 28, 2013

TEXT: *Matthew 16:13-21 KJV*

When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? (14) And they said, Some *say that thou art* John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. (15) He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? (16) And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. (17) And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. (18) And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (19) And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. (20) Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ. (21) From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

INTRO: *The JESUS Church*

FaceBook – Article about Jim Putman an Idaho Pastor…

"Too many churches are trying to figure out what the people want rather than what Jesus wants," said Putman. ***"When you're trying to figure out how to please people rather than pleasing Jesus, you're trying to get the wrong people to applaud you."***

Putman said ***an estimated 80 percent of those raised in church leave and never come back***, and referenced Thom S. Rainer suggesting that ***most***

Christians will die without ever sharing their faith, which might be the case, said Putman, ***because faith isn't working for them***.

In addition to falling short of genuine, Bible-based discipleship, ***Christians have also re-defined what it means to belong to Christ's Church***.

"What makes a church HIS church?"

Matthew 16:18 KJV

… upon this rock **I** will build **My** church; ***and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.***

Three possible ways to understand Jesus' declaration in ***Matthew 16:18***,

Either:

1. ***Jesus is a liar***, or
2. ***Jesus is totally ignorant*** or that
3. ***Somehow the Churches in most places are not HIS Churches anymore***

"… Jesus' Church can be a winning church, but it has to get back to doing things HIS way [and] defining things HIS way,"

"It's going to take HIS authority; it's going to take HIS methods, HIS leaders,"

"I Will Build My Church!"

I. What Is the Jesus Church

A group of Christ's disciples who are making more disciples of Christ so that they can in turn make more disciples of Christ and on and on until Christ returns!

Matthew 28:18-20 KJV

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. (19) Go ye therefore, and **teach** all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: (20) **Teaching** them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

Teach them enroll them as a disciple

Teaching them Discipling them

"I Will Build My Church!"

II. *Do You Belong to Jesus' Church*

In addition to falling short of genuine, Bible-based discipleship, Christians have also re-defined what it means to belong to Christ's Church.

Luke 14:25-35 KJV

And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, (26) If any *man* come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, **he cannot be my disciple.** (27) And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, **cannot be my disciple**. (28) For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have *sufficient* to finish *it?* (29) Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish *it,* all that behold *it* begin to mock him, (30) Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. (31) Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? (32) Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. (33) So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, **he cannot be my disciple**. (34) Salt *is* good: but if the salt have lost his

savour, wherewith shall it be seasoned? (35) It is neither fit for the land, nor yet for the dunghill; *but* men cast it out. **He that hath ears to hear, let him hear**.

John 6:64-69 KJV

But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. (65) And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. (66) **From that** *time* **many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him**. (67) Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? (68) Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? ***Thou Hast The Words Of Eternal Life***. (69) And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.

"I Will Build My Church!"

III. *The Gates of Hell Shall Not Prevail against It!*

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What do we have to fear???????

Luke 10:18-19 KJV

And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. (19) Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

John 16:33 KJV

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Matthew 24:29-31 KJV

Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: (30) And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. (31) And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.